

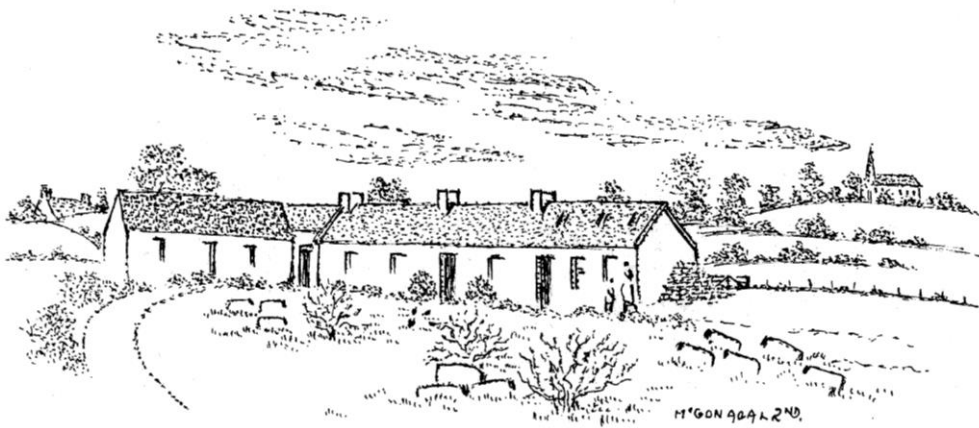
SON ONE

JAMES BLACK AND AGNES MOCHRIE  
OF  
LILTIE-CO-KEE

**BRIDGEND (previously called  
Little Troique)**

Bridgend is situated on the Longridge - Stoneyburn road, looking north-west. The intriguing feature of this holding is that, like its neighbour,

Holehouseburn, it is a perfect example of the L-shaped farmtoun. The dwelling quarters were situated near the centre with access to the farm buildings from either end. The short end of the 'L' was deliberately built to shelter the dwelling area from the prevailing wind.



Couthy wee placie cooryin doon frae the blaw  
Exposed, yin wad say tae wind and snaw  
But roond the peat fire in nichts lang syne.  
The pleasure o' family could be sublime.  
Tae hear faither's stories they'd au gether roond,  
The faither's word the only soond.

*We are unable to acknowledge the source but will happily do so when provided with this information. Note the spire of the Longridge Church in the background. The church is now a private house and the spire has been removed. The poem does not appear to have come from Melodies and Memories.*

## MELODIES AND MEMORIES PAGE 199

James succeeded his father in the croft or farm of Liltie-co-kee, his wife being Agnes Mochrie. There were two sons and five daughters. William, eldest son, was married to Catherine, daughter of Mr Waddell, of Crofthead, and their family consisted of two daughters. The William just mentioned became laird' of East Whitburn. Even a modest lairdship is a desirable thing. Maybe he married a lass wi' a tocher. James, second son of James, became a Dissenting Minister in Dundee, and died there, it is stated, but unfortunately there is here a total blank in the historical record. Someone may yet supply some of the missing links. It may be stated, that in Whitburn Churchyard is an old gravestone ... in good preservation, recording ... also the death of their eldest son, James, in 1800, aged 78 years, and Agnes Mochrie, his wife, in 1802, aged 73 years. Further, William, son of James, died in 1829, aged 68 years, and his wife, Catherine Waddell, in 1834, aged 80 years. Owing to the complete lack of information regarding the Back who became a minister, and the fact that his elder brother had no male issue, it is necessary to reckon line of descent through John second Liltie-co-kee son, who represents the second generation of Blacks

Mary, daughter of James of Liltie-co-kee, became wife of a Steel of Summerside, near Morningside, and her descendants are still owners and occupiers of that farm.

*Reminder: \* as JB didn't mention this individual, their story ends in the table whereas ^ tells you there is another generation within this document.*

*The accompanying tree however might show several more generations than is in this narrative.*

## FIRST SON - JAMES BLACK AND AGNES MOCHRIE

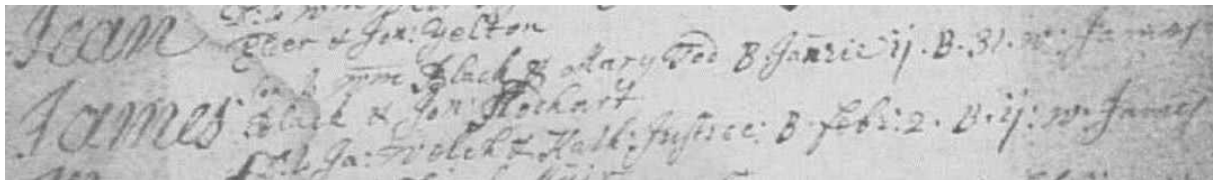
**Residence –Liltie-co-kee, Holehouseburn, Whitburn, West Lothian**

**James** succeeded his father in the croft or farm of Liltie-co-kee, his wife being **Agnes Mochrie**. There were two sons and five daughters. William... James... Mary...

It may be stated, that in Whitburn Churchyard is an old gravestone, in good preservation, recording the deaths of ... James in 1800, aged 78 years, and Agnes Mochrie, his wife, in 1802, aged 73 years.

### JAMES BLACK

James was baptised on 31 January 1722 in Carnwath and as the eldest son became the successor to Liltie-co-kee in Whitburn on the death of his father in 1842. James was just twenty and would have had the responsibility for his mother and his seven younger siblings.



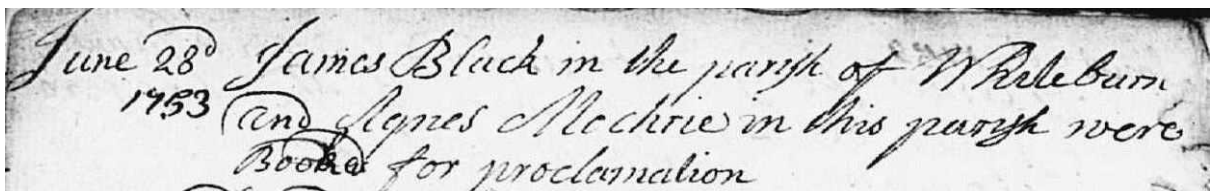
Parish baptism records - Carnwath, Lanarkshire.

### AGNES MOCHRIE

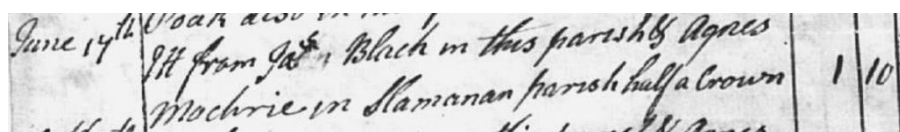
Agnes was from Slamannan Parish and was born on 15 February 1729 to parents James Mochrie and Elizabeth Wardrop.

### MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Nine years after succeeding his father, James married Agnes Mochrie on 28 June 1753. The groom was 31 and the bride 24. The wedding was proclaimed in both her parish, which was fourteen miles north-west from Whitburn, and James's home parish.



Parish marriage records - Slamannan, West Lothian.



Parish marriage records - Whitburn, West Lothian.

## SON-1-JAMES BLACK AND AGNES MOCHRIE

JB's history tells us that James Black and Agnes Mochrie had two sons and five daughters but more births have been located than listed in *Melodies and Memories*.

	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^James Black	06 May 1754	Liltie-co-kee	Whitburn	Janet Nielson then Janet Blackwood	14 July 1814
^Mary Black	02 Nov 1755	Liltie-co-kee	Whitburn	John Steel	16 Feb 1806
*William Black	31 May 1757	Liltie-co-kee	Whitburn	-	bef 1761
*Elizabeth Black	29 Aug 1758	Liltie-co-kee	Whitburn	unknown	unknown
^William Montgomery Black	12 Jan 1761	Liltie-co-kee	Whitburn	Agnes Waddell	06 Apr 1829
*Child Black	abt 1764	Liltie-co-kee	Whitburn	-	10 Dec 1764
*Female Black	abt 1766	Liltie-co-kee	Whitburn	unknown	unknown
*Female Black	abt 1768	Liltie-co-kee	Whitburn	unknown	unknown
*Female Black	abt 1770	Liltie-co-kee	Whitburn	unknown	unknown

The Whitburn parish registers records the following death and in the absence of more detail, this burial has been accorded to a further unnamed child born in 1764.

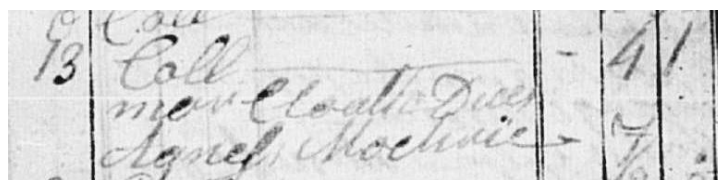
1764	Dec 10	James Black's child
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## DEATH AND BURIAL

James and Agnes lived long lives, both dying in their seventies. They share a grave with James's parents, William Black and Mary Tod at the Whitburn South Church. Their eldest surviving son William Montgomery Black and his wife Agnes Waddell also share the grave. The headstone shown in an earlier section reads:

**James Black their son died December 1800 aged 78y and Agnes Mochrie his spouse died October 1802, 73y.<sup>1</sup>**

James's burial was not found in the parish records but we find Agnes buried on 13 November 1803.



*Parish burial records – Whitburn, West Lothian.*

It is not known when the tenancy of Liltie-co-kee left the Black family but there is no evidence that it remained in the family after William's death.

<sup>1</sup> Photo shown in the previous section.

## SECOND GENERATION

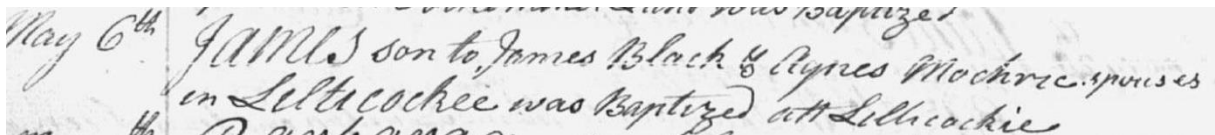
### JAMES BLACK, JANET NEILSON AND JANET BLACKWOOD

#### Residence – School Wynd, Dundee, Angus.

James, second [first] son of James, became a Dissenting Minister in Dundee, and died there, it is stated, but unfortunately, there is here a total blank in the historical record. Someone may yet supply some of the missing links.

### JAMES BLACK

Someone has supplied the missing links sought by John Black – us! But before we start, there is some conflict over the birth order. *Melodies and Memories* states James was the second son but the parish records show he was the first, having been baptised on 6 May 1754 at his parent's home at Liltie-co-kee, ten months after their marriage.



Parish baptism records - Whitburn, West Lothian.

James started his ministry at the Moat Park Church in Biggar, possibly around 1775, and was ordained into the School Wynd congregation in Dundee in 1782. This was a secession church of the Associate Presbyteries which later became part of the United Presbyterian Church.

### JANET NEILSON

Neither Janet's birth nor parentage can be ascertained. Her father may have been Thomas, based on traditional naming patterns.

### MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

James and Janet married on 22 June 1780 in Dundee, before he was ordained into the Dundee Church. Their three children were all baptised at School Wynd.

	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*James Black	11 Apr 1781	School Wynd	Dundee	-	bef 1788
*Thomas Black	04 Sep 1783	School Wynd	Dundee	unknown	unknown
*William Black	25 Jul 1784	School Wynd	Dundee	-	bef 1794

## SON-1-JAMES BLACK AND AGNES MOCHRIE

Janet died before 1786 as James married for a second time that year.

### JANET BLACKWOOD

His second wife, also Janet, was born in 1768 in Dunfermline to John Blackwood a merchant and his wife Margaret Wyld.

### MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The marriage took place on 8 September 1786 in Dunfermline. She was only eighteen and James 32. James and Janet Blackwood had eight children all born in Dundee.

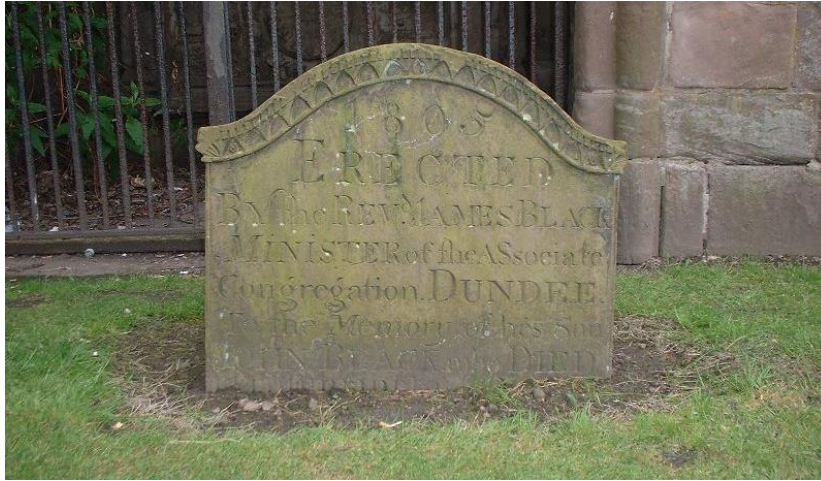
	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Margaret Black	03 Aug 1787	School Wynd	Dundee	unknown	unknown
*James Black	29 Sep 1788	School Wynd	Dundee	unknown	29 Oct 1847
*John Black	08 Apr 1790	School Wynd	Dundee	-	10 Nov 1803
*Agnes Black	25 Aug 1792	School Wynd	Dundee	unknown	unknown
*William Black	24 Jul 1794	School Wynd	Dundee	unknown	aft 1851
*Helen Black	15 Aug 1796	School Wynd	Dundee	-	06 Aug 1804
*Janet Black	08 Jun 1799	School Wynd	Dundee	John Kirk	21 Apr 1848
*Catherine Black	23 Dec 1800	School Wynd	Dundee	unknown	unknown

From all accounts James was not a popular minister and an examination of the Session Minute book 1810-1816 of the School Wynd United Presbyterian Church referred often to the Rev Black's 'affliction' but nowhere in these minutes did it give an indication of what his affliction was. There was a letter of complaint with regard to the accounts and on the 30 March 1813 it was decided to take an inventory of the Reverend Black's papers at his home on 17 May 1814. James was asked to resign and a petition was presented by the Commissioners who had been appointed by the congregation to deal with the resignation. He died however in July before his resignation took place.

### DEATH AND BURIAL

Although no grave can be found for James (or either of his wives) a headstone in the Howff graveyard in Dundee records his children's burials:





*Howff Cemetery, Dundee.*

*1805.*

*Erected*

*By Rev James Black*

*Minister of the Associate Congregation, Dundee*

*In Memory Of His Son John Black*

*Who Died Triumphantly 10 November 1803*

*Saying 'I Go To See My Lord' Aged 13y*

*And his daughter Ellen Black who died 6th August 1804 aged 8 Years*

### **Caledonian Mercury**

**25 July 1814**

#### **Died**

At Dundee on the 14<sup>th</sup> current, the Reverend James Black minister of the Associate congregation here, in the fifty sixth year of his age and thirty second year of his ministry.

The children's deaths were recorded in the Dundee Parish Registers, as was the death of James Black, some ten years later on 14 July 1814. When James died a newspaper report stated that he was in his 56<sup>th</sup> year but he would have been 60. Janet Blackwood's died on 17 September 1839 in Dunfermline.

Efforts to find a Reverend James Black resulted in the location of a book published in 1851, 37 years after his death. Published by W. Collins & Company and titled: *Sermons by the Late Rev. James Black, A.M., Minister of the Gospel to the Associate Congregation, School Wynd, Dundee. Now the United Presbyterian Church.* The authors were listed as James Black, William Johnston and William Black. If William Black was James's son, he lived to adulthood.

The *Dundee Courier* 21 February 1893 has the following. "The Sixth minister of the School Wynd was the Rev James Black. The writer has just been reading the ordination sermon of this minister. It was delivered on Septembers 25<sup>th</sup> 1782 and it occupied more than two hours in delivering, contrasting with the short sermons preached in the present days, I am afraid those who attend churches nowadays would sit uneasily under such a sermon. This was certainly a very fine sermon evidently preached from the heart. During Mr Black's pastorate a disagreement arose which resulted in a section leaving and forming a congregation now represented by the Willison Free Church."

## MARY BLACK AND JOHN STEEL

**Residence – Summerside, Cambusnethan, Lanarkshire.**

Mary, daughter of James of Liltie-co-kee, became wife of a Steel of Summerside, near Morningside, and her descendants are still owners and occupiers of that farm.

### MARY BLACK

Mary was baptised on 2 November 1755 in Whitburn.

### JOHN STEEL

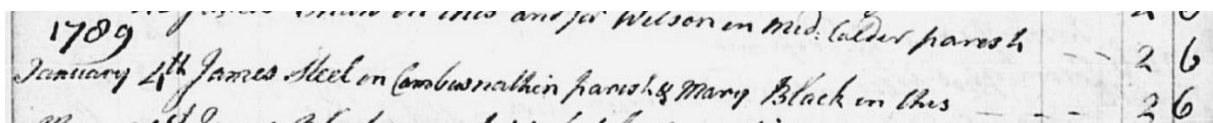
John's baptism cannot be located but a post on the internet states the family had been at Summerside for several generations before his birth, estimated as 1755. His father was also John Steel.<sup>2</sup> John had inherited Summerside from his father in 1770 so he was not a tenant farmer.

### MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Mary married John Steel at Cambusnethan on 3 January 1789 when she was 33. The spelling Steil was used on the marriage.

STEIL	JOHN	MARY BLACK	03/01/1789	Cambusnethan
STEEL	JAMES	MARY BLACK	04/01/1789	Whitburn

You may note the proclamation of the marriage in Whitburn the next day was for James not John but we believe this was an error and as 'James' was from Cambusnethan and the marriage was therefore being proclaimed in both the bride and groom's parishes.



*Parish marriage records - Whitburn.*

Only two sons have been accorded to Mary.

	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*John Steel	abt 1790	Summerside	Cambusnethan	Ann Cunningham	12 Jan 1870
*James Steel	abt 1791	Summerside	Cambusnethan	Marion Reid	19 Oct 1871

<sup>2</sup> Some trees give a birthdate for John Steel in Glasgow with a father Thomas. As we understand from JB that John was born in Summerside, Cambusnethan we have not used this information.



## SON-1-JAMES BLACK AND AGNES MOCHRIE

### DEATH AND BURIAL

Mary died at the age of 50 and the mortcloth rental was shown in the Cambusnethan Parish records.

#### **1806 Feb 16 for the best to Mrs Steel of Summerside**

John remarried Agnes Smellie on 25 July 1807 in Cambusnethan and had further children. His death was probably in 1815 as a mortcloth was hired to John Steel of Summerside on 4 June of that year.

## WILLIAM MONTGOMERY BLACK AND AGNES WADDEL

**Residence – East Whitburn, West Lothian.**

**William**, eldest son, was married to Catherine [Agnes], daughter of Mr Waddell, of Crofthead, and their family consisted of two daughters. The William just mentioned became laird of East Whitburn. Even a modest lairdship is a desirable thing. Maybe he married a lass wi' a tocher [dowry]. ... **William**, son of James, died in 1829, aged 68 years, and his wife, **Catherine [Agnes] Waddell**, in 1834 aged 80 years.

### WILLIAM MONTGOMERY BLACK

William was in fact the second surviving son and baptised on 12 January 1761. The reason for his middle name of Montgomery is unknown and it was only used on his baptism.

### AGNES WADDEL

John Black incorrectly named William's wife as Catherine but she proved to be Agnes. An Agnes Waddel was born on 8 May 1754 to George Waddel and Isabel Findlay at Bathgate seven miles from Crofthead which was given as her home in *Melodies and Memories*.

### MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Their marriage took place on 2 September 1792 in Whitburn parish. William was 31 and based on the monumental inscription Agnes was 38. Only two daughters were recorded.

	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Katherine Black	25 Jul 1793	East Whitburn	Whitburn	unknown	unknown
*Agnes Black	15 Jul 1795	East Whitburn	Whitburn	unknown	unknown

As stated, William became the owner of a farm at East Whitburn.

### DEATH AND BURIAL

SON-1-JAMES BLACK AND AGNES MOCHRIE

William and Agnes are buried in Whitburn Churchyard with William's parents and grandparents.

**William Black**  
**son of James Black**  
**died April 6<sup>th</sup> 1829 aged 68.**  
**Mrs Black his spouse**  
**died Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 1836 aged 80 yrs**